

Sample inventory with Lab bench/user tracking:

Manchester University

Our group has several freezers and nitrogen storage vessels where we store a variety of samples; these samples are routinely removed for different analysis and scientific techniques. The group has four laboratory technicians that perform tasks with these samples. The way in which they work is to select samples that they want to use from the sample lists and then go down to the freezer room, remove the samples from the freezer and take them back to their lab bench to carry out the relevant testing.

Pro-curo is setup in the usual way but in addition to the usual freezer room, an addition room location is setup for each technician/laboratory bench, Named LAB BENCH 01, LAB BENCH 02, LAB BENCH 03 and LAB BENCH 04. For each of these locations a bar-coded location label was produced which is applied to each Lab bench, samples are entered into the system in the usual way and stored within boxes, draws, racks and shelves. When a laboratory technician requires samples, they use the search function within Pro-curo to produce a list of the samples they require, by right clicking on the sample grid they can then print the grid to a report printer (laser/office printer) connected to the system. They can then take this list down to the freezer room, the list contains the location name for each sample so it is then easy to pick out each sample, when this is done the samples can be scanned using the portable barcode terminal, the technician then returns to their laboratory bench where they scan the bar-coded location label, once they have completed their tasks they then scan all the samples and return to the freezer room, they then scan the bar-coded label of the location there are returning the sample too. Alternatively if the sample has been exhausted the sample is Disposed of, and a reason for disposal is given.

When you look at the history of a sample you can see who and when a sample was removed from the freezers what laboratory technician/lab bench the samples where then taken to, how or if they were edited and when /if they were returned to a freezer location. Another of the key features is the Projects, because several groups use the system the ability to restrict the view by project was essential and gave us control as to what users could see.

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